

The Purpose of State Punishment

Put each of the following words or phrases in its correct place below.

Wrongdoer misdeeds barbaric deterrent reform retribution law-abiding humane crime doesn't pay death penalty rehabilitate law criminals crime corporal punishment

Vocabulary list

1) *a misdeed* - a wrong or illegal action;

2) *barbaric* - very cruel and violent;

3) *retribution* - severe punishment for something very serious;

4) *law-abiding* - respectful of the law and obeying it;

5) *to rehabilitate* - to help someone to live a healthy, useful, or active life again after they have been seriously ill or in prison

What is the purpose of punishment? One purpose is obviously to (1) _____ the offender, to correct the offender's moral attitudes and anti-social behavior and to (2) _____ him or her, which means to assist the offender to return to normal life as a useful member of the community. Punishment can also be seen as a (3) _____, because it warns other people of what will happen if they are tempted to break the (4) _____ and so prevents them from doing so. However, a third purpose of punishment lies, perhaps, in society's desire for (5) _____, which basically means revenge. In other words, don't we feel that a (6) _____ should suffer for his (7) _____? The form of punishment should also be considered. On the one hand, some believe that we should "make the punishment fit the crime". Those who steal from others should be deprived of their own property to ensure that (8) _____ are left in no doubt that (9) "_____". For those who attack others, (10) _____ should be used. Murderers should be subject to the principle "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" and automatically receive the (11) _____. On the other hand, it is said that such views are unreasonable, cruel and (12) _____ and that we should show a more (13) _____ attitude to punishment and try to understand why a person commits a (14) _____ and how society has failed to enable him to live a respectable, (15) _____ life.